

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A text symbol entry system, comprising:

a display visually divided into a plurality of functional areas including:

a first functional area for displaying selected characters;

a second functional area for displaying candidate characters; and

a third functional area for displaying at least a first stroke category and a second stroke category;

an indicator system operable by one human digit, the indicator system having at least four outer keys arranged in four substantially-equidistant positions around at an inner, central key ~~a first cardinal state, a second cardinal state, and a third cardinal state~~;

a processor responsive to said indicator system being positioned in one of said four substantially-equidistant positions to each cardinal state, whereby the indicator system is used to select between candidate characters in the second functional area and to select between said first stroke category and said second stroke category in the third functional area;

a program controlling the processor so that characters are entered for display in the first functional area in response to a user:

indicating at least one desired stroke category from among the first stroke category and the second stroke category by moving the indicator system into the first cardinal state position selected from among said four substantially-equidistant positions or second position selected from among said four substantially-equidistant positions

~~cardinal state~~, thereby causing the program to display at least two candidate characters in the second functional area, wherein said at least two candidate characters are formed, at least in part, by a stroke represented by the desired stroke category; and indicating which of the at least two candidate characters the user wants displayed in said first functional area by pressing said inner, central key.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The text symbol entry system of claim 1, wherein the text symbol entry system has a first mode and a second mode, wherein;

when the text entry system is in the first mode, at least one outer key the first ~~cardinal state~~ has a textual meaning associated with it, and

when the text entry system in the second mode, at least one additional key the ~~first cardinal state~~ has a different meaning associated with it.

6. (Previously Presented) The text symbol entry system of claim 5, wherein the different meaning is a different textual meaning.

7. (Previously Presented) The text symbol entry system of claim 5, wherein the different meaning is not a textual meaning.

8. (Previously Presented) The text symbol entry system of claim 7, wherein the different meaning is a navigational meaning.

9. (Previously Presented) The text symbol entry system of claim 5, wherein moving from the first mode to the second mode is accomplished by applying a force to said indicator system to the third location.

10. (Currently Amended) The text symbol entry system of claim 5, wherein when the text symbol entry system is in the first mode, the at least one outer key first cardinal state is used to select a first category of text symbol and the at least one additional key second cardinal state is used to select a second category of text symbol.

11. (Currently Amended) The text symbol entry system of claim 1, wherein the at least one outer key first cardinal state is used to select a first category of text symbol and the at least one additional key second cardinal state is used to select a second category of text symbol.

12. (Currently Amended) The text symbol entry system of claim 11, wherein the at least one outer key first cardinal state is used to select a first category of text symbol and the

at least one additional key second cardinal state is used to select a second category of text symbol, wherein the first category of text symbol includes symbols having a first feature and the second category of text symbol includes symbols having a second feature.

13. (Previously Presented) The text symbol entry system of claim 12, wherein a symbol having both the first feature and the second feature is included in both the first category and the second category.

14. (Currently Amended) The text symbol entry system of claim 1, wherein the indicator system includes a position indicator and selection of one of the additionally keys are cardinal states is accomplished by detecting a position of the position indicator.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of entering text symbols, comprising:

providing a display having a plurality of functional areas wherein a first functional area displays candidate text symbols and a second functional area displays selected text symbols and a third functional area displays at least a first stroke category and a second stroke category;

providing an indicator system operable by one human digit, the indicator system having four outer keys arranged in four substantially-equidistant positions around at an inner, central key a first cardinal state, a second cardinal state, and a third cardinal state;

providing a processor operably connected to the indicator system;
activating the at least one outer key first cardinal state to indicate at least one desired stroke category from among the first stroke category and the second stroke category by moving the indicator system into the at least one outer key first cardinal state or at least one additional key second cardinal state, thereby causing the program to display at least two candidate characters in the second functional area, wherein said at least two candidate characters are formed, at least in part, by a stroke represented by the desired stroke category; and
indicating which of the at least two candidate characters the user wants displayed in said first functional area.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying a representative symbol, the representative symbol corresponding to the first stroke category.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying in the first functional area text having one of the symbols corresponding to the first stroke category.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

activating the at least one additional key second cardinal state to indicate to the processor selection of a second stroke category of text symbol to be entered, the second stroke category including symbols used to create text; and

displaying in the first functional area text having one of the symbols corresponding to the first stroke category and one of the symbols corresponding to the second stroke category.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising selecting the text symbol displayed in the first functional area.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising displaying the selected text symbol in the second functional area.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

displaying in the first functional area a first icon that represents text which has one of the symbols corresponding to the first stroke category; and

displaying in the first functional area a second icon that represents part of a text symbol, the first icon and the second icon having the same symbols.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of entering text symbols, comprising:

providing a display divided into a plurality of functional areas wherein a first functional area displays candidate text symbols which comprise completed text symbols that have strokes associated with first and second stroke categories and a second functional area displays selected text symbols, and the display further comprises a stroke display area for displaying symbols identifiable by four outer keys arranged in four substantially-equidistant positions around at an inner, central key first and second cardinal states and a third functional area for displaying at least one stroke category and a second stroke category;

providing an indicator system operable by a human eye, the indicator system having four outer keys arranged in four substantially-equidistant positions around at an inner, central key a first cardinal state, a second cardinal state, and a third cardinal state;

providing a processor operably connected to the indicator system;

activating the at least one outer key first cardinal state to indicate to at least one desired stroke category from among the first stroke category and the second stroke category by moving the indicator system into the at least one outer key first cardinal state or at least one additional key second cardinal state, thereby causing the program to display at least two candidate characters in the second functional area, wherein said at least two candidate characters are formed, at least in part, by a stroke represented by the desired stroke category; and

indicating which of the at least two candidate characters the user wants displayed in said first functional area.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising displaying a representative symbol, the representative symbol corresponding to the first category.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising displaying in the first functional area a text symbol having one of the symbols corresponding to the first category.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

activating the at least one additional key second cardinal state to indicate to the processor selection of a second stroke category to be entered, the second category including symbols used to create a plurality of text symbols; and

displaying in the first functional area a text symbol having one of the symbols corresponding to the first category and one of the symbols corresponding to the second category.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising selecting the text symbol displayed in the first functional area.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising displaying the selected text symbol in the second functional area.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

displaying in the first functional area a first icon that represents a text symbol which has one of the symbols corresponding to the first category; and

displaying in the first functional area a second icon that represents part of a text symbol, the first icon and the second icon having the same symbols.

29. (New) A text symbol entry system, comprising:

a display visually divided into a plurality of functional areas including:

a virtual representation of an indicator system;

a first functional area for displaying selected characters;

a second functional area for displaying candidate characters; and

a third functional area for displaying at least a first stroke category and a second stroke category;

wherein said virtual representation of an indicator system is operable by tracking a user's eye movement, the virtual representation of an indicator system having at least four outer keys arranged in four substantially-equidistant positions around at an inner, central key;

a processor responsive to said indicator system being positioned in one of said four substantially-equidistant positions, whereby the indicator system is used to select between candidate characters in the second functional area and to select between said first stroke category and said second stroke category in the third functional area;

an eye movement tracking program controlling the processor so that characters are entered for display in the first functional area in response to a user:

indicating at least one desired stroke category from among the first stroke category and the second stroke category by moving said user's eye into the first position selected from among said four substantially-equidistant positions or second position selected from among said four substantially-equidistant positions, thereby causing the program to display at least two candidate characters in the second functional area, wherein said at least two candidate characters are formed, at least in part, by a stroke represented by the desired stroke category; and

indicating which of the at least two candidate characters the user wants displayed in said first functional area by blinking.